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JUDGE THROWS OUT TRUMP SUIT ON PENNSYLVANIA LOSS

A Pennsylvania judge on Saturday dismissed Trump campaign's lawsuit seeking to invalidate millions of mail-in votes

STATE CAN NOW CERTIFY BIDEN AS WINNER

Judge Matthew Brann ruled that the Trump campaign "presented strained legal arguments without merit and speculative accusations unsupported by evidence". Donald Trump had claimed some Pennsylvania counties contacted and let voters to fix mistakes in their mail ballot declarations. The path is now clear for the state to certify Joe Biden as the winner

HELPFUL VERDICT, CLAIMS TRUMP TEAM

- Trump's legal team cast the ruling in a positive light, saying it helps their strategy to get the case expeditiously to the US Supreme Court, where a majority of judges are conservative
- The case will now go to the 3rd circuit of the US Court of Appeals, which, the Trump campaign hopes, will pass a quick verdict | PTI

81,000
VOTES IS BIDEN'S LEAD OVER TRUMP IN PENNSYLVANIA

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Experts see building of a second Covid wave in India

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

AFTER reaching the trough of just 28,609 fresh Covid-19 cases on November 16 — the lowest in four months — India has seen between 38,000 and 46,000 new cases daily in the last four days, raising concerns that the country is staring at a second wave of the deadly infection.

The daily infection count reached its peak of 96,860 on September 16. Ever since, there had been a steady decline.

But, in recent days, states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, and Delhi have seen a sharp rise in daily new cases, pushing the national tally up.

"We are definitely seeing early signs of a second wave at the national level," health economist Rijo M John said. The mortality rate, too, is rising in several states, including Kerala, Odisha, Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, John pointed out. Experts warned that the states that did well in containing the first wave may see a higher caseload this time around if they let the guard down.

"In those states, since seroprevalence and infection-induced immunity are low, people venturing out would mean high daily cases," said public health expert Oommen C Kurian. "India will have multiple peaks before vaccines arrive and a second wave by end-November or early-December is highly likely," he added.

Understandably, the spurt in cases has forced state governments to re-impose some of the curbs that were dialed back. Haryana and Manipur, for instance, have shut schools again while many districts in Rajasthan and Gujarat are witnessing more restrictions.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray warned the second wave "looks like a tsunami" and urged people not to lower their guards so as to avoid another lockdown. P9

K'taka can avoid second wave: Expert

Bengaluru: Karnataka can avoid a second, more severe wave of Covid cases, if the same vigour is maintained in testing and detecting cases, said an expert. But if the state stumbles like Delhi did, then it will not face a wave, but a tsunami of cases and deaths, warned Sanjeev Mysore, convenor of Jeevan Raksha. P3

BJP chief's ABC Plan for 120-day tour from Dec 5

Party-ruled states have been categorised as A, while those by the Oppn are on the B list

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

TO get a head start for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has put in place an 'ABC Plan' that will see party chief J P Nadda embark on a 120-day tour of states from December 5 to gear up the organisation for the big electoral challenge.

Nadda will head out to the A, B and C categories of states, with the first two comprising party and opposition-ruled states, respectively. The smaller states have been placed in the C basket.

BJP national general secretary Arun Singh on Sunday told reporters that the 120-day-long tour would be utilised for building dialogue, strategies and team spirit among the cadre. "The BJP chief will be spending three days each in large states and two days each in the smaller states," he said. BJP national general secretary Tarun Chug will coordinate Nadda's travel plans.

Singh said the BJP chief will connect with booth-level party workers in the course of his state visits, which will commence from Uttarakhand. Besides the ABC states, Nadda will also travel to the states where Assembly elections will be held next year.

Strategy in Oppn-ruled states

Nadda, in Opposition-ruled states, will strategise to build campaigns against the ruling parties by taking up various issues

The BJP has said Nadda's travel plans will follow all Covid-19 guidelines, with arrangements being made for checking temperatures, masks and santisation.

"The plan of action for the travel of the BJP chief across the country includes building a positive image in the party-ruled states, team spirit, strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, besides stress on clarity of the party ideology," said Singh.

Given the importance of social media, Nadda will hold meetings with digital volunteers during his state visits. Another important feature will be meetings allies in the states. "The BJP will endeavour during the meetings to strategise on winning those Lok Sabha seats the party could not in 2019," said Singh.

BJP SHOW TIED TO MUSLIM MLAs

SANA SHAKIL @ New Delhi

BARRING a few exceptions, the fact that fewer Muslim MLAs were elected in the recent Bihar Assembly elections falls into a pattern witnessed in recent years.

Wherever and whenever the Bharatiya Janata Party and its alliance partners have performed strongly, coming to power in most cases, the number of elected Muslim representatives has gone down, like in Bihar where it dropped from 24 to 19.

Conversely, where non-BJP parties have done well, Muslim representation in the elected houses has generally increased, an analysis by this newspaper found.

Take, for instance, the Karnataka elections in 2018 and Uttar Pradesh in 2017. In both states, the BJP did well and the number of Muslim MLAs dived. The steepest fall was in UP where the BJP stormed to power with a crushing three-fourths mandate. In the outgoing Assembly where the Samajwadi Party was in power, the state had 68 Muslim MLAs; that figure dropped to 24. Percentage wise, it dipped from 17% of the total strength of the Assembly to 6%. In Karnataka, the number of Muslim MLAs fell from 11 to seven.

Contrast them with the elections in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in late 2018, Odisha in mid-2019, Maharashtra and Jharkhand in late 2019, and Delhi in February this year. In all these states, the Congress and regional parties upended the BJP and the Muslim MLA count grew, even if marginally in some cases.

The biggest increase was in Rajasthan — from two to eight — where the Congress wrested power from the BJP. In Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, where the Congress ended 15 years of continuous BJP rule, Muslim MLA numbers went up from nil to one and one to two, respectively.

Maharashtra and Jharkhand are also interesting, as the BJP lost power, and the number of Muslim MLAs increased.

Exceptions to the trend were Gujarat, Assam and Tripura, where Muslim representation went up though they are ruled by the BJP. On the flip side, the Muslim MLA count dropped in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Punjab, where the BJP has negligible electoral presence.

CONTINUED ON: P9

EXPRESS MAPS

How they stack up

● Percentage in population ● % of Muslim MLAs at present
● Number of Muslim MLAs ● Number of MLAs in the last Assembly

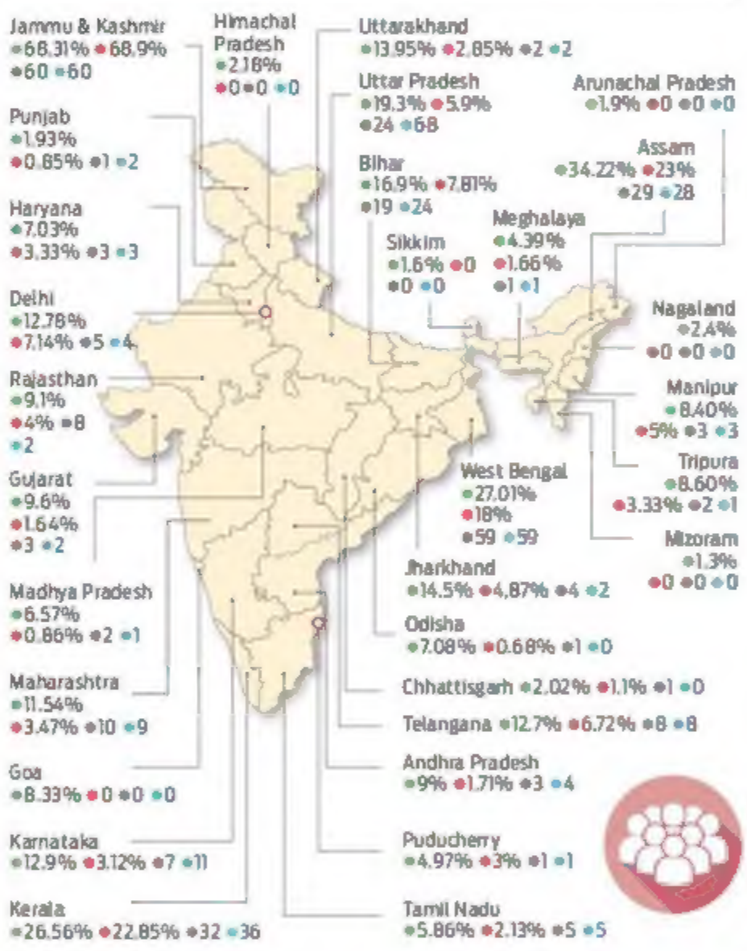
Jammu & Kashmir ●68.31% ●68.9% ●60 ●60
Himachal Pradesh ●2.18% ●0 ●0 ●0
Uttarakhand ●13.95% ●2.85% ●2 ●2
Uttar Pradesh ●19.3% ●5.9% ●24 ●68
Arunachal Pradesh ●1.9% ●0 ●0 ●0
Punjab ●1.93% ●0.85% ●1 ●2
Bihar ●16.9% ●7.81% ●19 ●24
Assam ●34.22% ●23% ●29 ●28
Meghalaya ●4.39% ●1.66% ●1 ●1
Sikkim ●1.6% ●0 ●0 ●0
Haryana ●7.03% ●3.33% ●3 ●3
Nagaland ●2.4% ●0 ●0 ●0
Delhi ●12.78% ●7.14% ●5 ●4
Manipur ●8.40% ●5% ●3 ●3
Rajasthan ●9.1% ●4% ●8 ●2
Tripura ●8.60% ●3.33% ●2 ●1
Gujarat ●9.6% ●1.64% ●3 ●2
West Bengal ●27.01% ●18% ●59 ●59
Mizoram ●1.3% ●0 ●0 ●0
Jharkhand ●14.5% ●4.87% ●4 ●2
Madhya Pradesh ●6.57% ●0.86% ●2 ●1
Odisha ●7.08% ●0.68% ●1 ●0
Maharashtra ●11.54% ●3.47% ●10 ●9
Chhattisgarh ●2.02% ●1.1% ●1 ●0
Telangana ●12.7% ●6.72% ●8 ●8
Goa ●8.33% ●0 ●0 ●0
Andhra Pradesh ●9% ●1.71% ●3 ●4
Karnataka ●12.9% ●3.12% ●7 ●11
Puducherry ●4.97% ●3% ●1 ●1
Kerala ●26.56% ●22.85% ●32 ●36
Tamil Nadu ●5.86% ●2.13% ●5 ●5

FIGURE IT OUT

Ten states where the number of Muslim legislators went up as compared to the last Assembly elections are Delhi, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Assam and Tripura

Nine states where the number of Muslim legislators has remained the same as compared to the last Assembly elections are Haryana, Telangana, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Puducherry and J&K

Six states where the Muslim MLA count dropped as compared to the last Assembly elections are Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Punjab

Six states that do not have a single Muslim MLA are Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram, Nagaland, Goa and Himachal Pradesh

EXPRESS READ

Covaxin shows significant progress

Mysuru: Covaxin, which is currently the most promising among indigenous vaccines, is showing good results. It has started its third phase clinical trials recently among 26,000 volunteers. P3

Azad roasts 'five-star culture' of Congress

New Delhi: Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday lashed out at party leadership saying there's a disconnect between people and Congress leaders and "five-star culture" has crept into the party.

Cow cabinet mulls cess to raise funds

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

THE first-of-its-kind *gau* (cow) cabinet meeting on Sunday convened by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan explored the possibility of levying a cess to raise funds for the welfare of cows in Madhya Pradesh.

"There was a time when every individual offered the first *roti* of the meal to a cow and the last *roti* to dogs, but now it doesn't happen. Maybe we'll make the people contribute financially, but it will be ensured that they aren't pained by it," Chouhan said.

The *gau* cabinet, which met virtually also decided to set up over 2,000 cowsheds in the state for the protection of the cows. "We won't let any cow remain shelterless. We've targeted 2,000 *gaushalas* to be managed by government along with self-help groups," he said. CONTINUED ON: P10

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex
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IMA scam: CBI arrests ex-minister Roshan Baig

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FORMER minister Roshan Baig was arrested by the sleuths of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday for his alleged involvement in the ₹4,000 crore I-Monetary Advisory (IMA) scam.

CBI sources said that Baig was summoned on Sunday morning. "He was questioned about his involvement in the case and as there was evidence that he had played a role in the scam, he was arrested. He was subjected to a medical test, including for Covid, and was produced before a magistrate, who remanded him in judicial custody for 14 days. Baig was shifted to Bengaluru Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara," they added. P6

Former minister Roshan Baig after being arrested by CBI in Bengaluru

If cases rise, colleges may be shut: Sudhakar

Bengaluru: Karnataka Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Sunday said that degree and engineering colleges may be shut again if Covid-19 cases rise. "The youth have immunity, but I would not say that students won't contract the disease. We must protect students, as well as shape their academic future. Since it's a big responsibility, we have decided to reopen schools and colleges in a phased manner," he added. P2

REOPENING SCHOOLS: CM TO DECIDE TODAY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE state government will on Monday decide on reopening of schools for this academic year across the state. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has called a meeting on Monday with Primary and Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar and officials from the departments of education, social welfare and health.

Suresh Kumar told *The New Indian Express* that they have already held a meeting with School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) members and a report has been kept ready, which will be presented to the CM at the meeting.

"We will take the opinions of health department officials before arriving at any decision," he said, adding that this would be applicable only for government and government-aided schools following state syllabus.

Education department officials said the opinions of parents, teachers and students from have already been taken and documented in the report.

They said the meeting will also discuss protocols to be followed for reopening of schools, and they are likely to be similar to those for colleges. P4

KHAKI CRIME

Cop held for fake raid on jewellery shop

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a case of fence eating the crop, a police constable attached to the Kadugodi police station has been arrested for allegedly conducting a fake raid on a jewellery shop along with seven others and escaping with 800 grams of gold jewellery. Another constable wanted in the case is absconding and a manhunt is on to nab him. Both the constables are attached to the Kadugodi police station.

The Halasuru Gate police have arrested seven accused, including constable Ashok, while another policeman, Chowdegowda, is absconding.

The incident took place on November 11 at Geetha Jewellers on Yarappa Lane of Thigalarapet in Nagarthpet. The eight-member gang, posing as policemen and officials of the Enforcement Directorate had carried out the fake raid and taken away the jewellery and some documents. The store owner, Karthik, filed a police complaint the next day.

"It was clear from the CCTV footage that policemen were involved, as two of the accused were in police uniform," an official said. P5,7

COVID WOES

Coronavirus fans child starvation epidemic in Karnataka?

RANJANI MADHAVAN
@Bengaluru

THE number of malnourished children at the recently opened rehabilitation centre in Bengaluru suggests that the pandemic and its effects may have worsened hunger and pushed many children across the state into starvation.

Twenty-six children aged 0-5 years have been admitted at the Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) at Vani Vilas Hospital since it opened in August. Four children were admitted in August, two in September, 16 in October and four in November (till November 17).

But the staff at the centre say the numbers are actually higher as many parents refrain from admitting their children fearing they would contract Covid-19. In October, of the 275 children screened, 24 were diagnosed with Severe Acute Malnutrition and 44 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition. But the parents of only 16 children agreed to admit their kids. While some children were referred for treatment of other ailments, others were referred by anganwadis.

Doctors, anganwadi workers and nutritional experts said while many factors may have led to hunger, the lockdown-induced financial distress and income loss prevented children from accessing nutritious food.

"When children come in for diarrhoea, pneumonia, convulsions, sepsis, fever, etc, we detect malnutrition as well. Some cases we have received have been from the anganwadi staff, who spotted malnourished children, especially from Goripalya, Bapuji Nagar, Kumbalgodu, etc in and around Bengaluru. One of the causes is the financial problem faced by parents due to the pandemic," said Dr Mallesh K, head of the department of paediatrics at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, which has Vani Vilas Hospital under its ambit. P7